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GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETERS IN FAMILY COURT AND FAMILY MEDIATION

Thank you for being available to assist Spanish speaking individuals in the Family Court and in Family Mediation. Your assistance is appreciated by the Family Court Judge, Mediators and staff. These guidelines are offered to help you in your role as interpreter.

- 1) It is important that you make every attempt to interpret only what is actually said by the people you are interpreting for. It will often be the case that you are aware of information that the parent or witness is not offering, or you may disagree with what the speaker is saying. Please do not add or change information for the speaker. Also, please do not prompt or coach them about information you think should be included.
- 2) It is expected that you may have to ask clarifying questions. Please feel free to do so. It is most important that the information you relay be accurate.
- 3) The matters that are heard in Family Court are open to the public. Confidentiality is not a concern when you are interpreting in a courtroom situation. However, **Family Mediation is a confidential proceeding**. Mediators are legally bound by confidentiality laws in Mediation. You will be interpreting some very private and sensitive matters in Family Mediation. We ask that you respect the right of the parties for confidentiality and that you not convey to anyone, any information you may learn in the course of your interpreting, once you leave the Mediation session.